

# Rhode Island Charter Public Schools: Renewal Process Overview

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Office of Charter Schools

**Rhode Island Department of Education**

## Terms

*Performance Review:* an evaluation of a charter school's academic outcomes, conditions for success, and organizational viability. Results of the *performance review* drive the renewal decision.

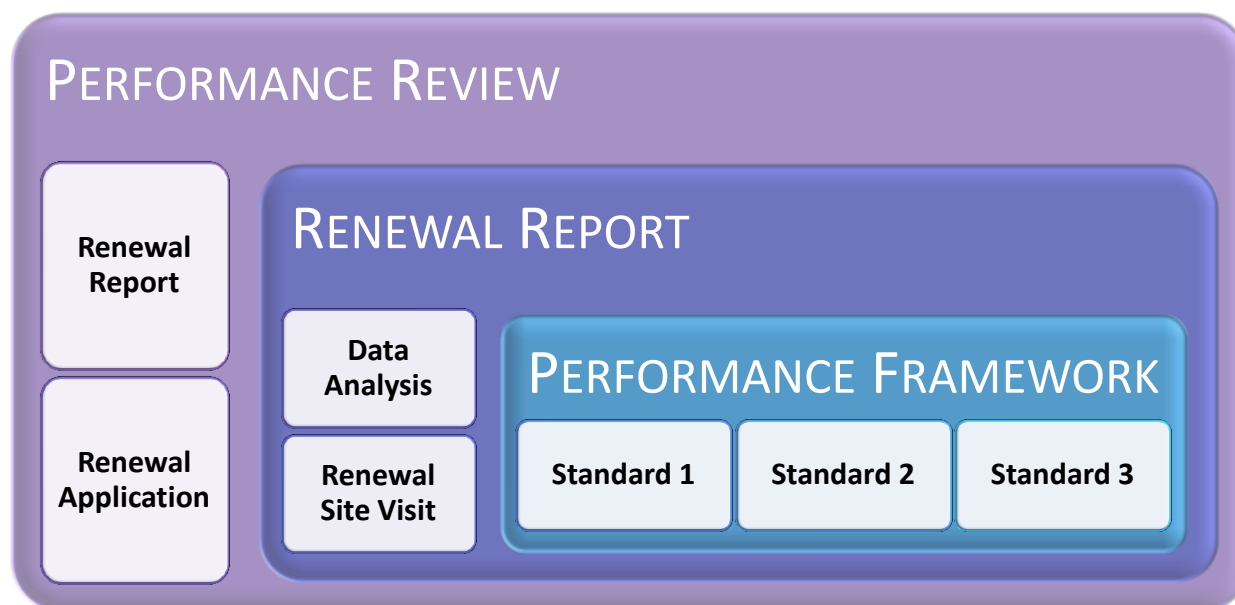
*Renewal Report:* a report produced by RIDE that summarizes all findings and ratings from the performance review, and is a key source of information for making renewal determinations.

*Performance Framework:* the primary standards and supporting sub-standards against which each charter school is evaluated during the performance review.

*Renewal Application:* an application developed by each charter school undergoing the renewal process that articulates strategies and capacities for sustaining success and continuing to improve over the next charter term, if granted renewal.

*Renewal Process:* a multi-stage process that typically occurs during a school's penultimate authorization year, which results in a recommendation to the Board of Education.

*Renewal Site Visit:* a multi-day school visit by a committee with a primary objective of determining whether the school is providing the appropriate conditions for success.



The Board of Education makes decisions for charter renewal based on the recommendation of the Commissioner. Two sources of information will inform the Commissioner's recommendation:

- 1) The *renewal report*, produced by RIDE
- 2) The *renewal application*, produced by the charter school undergoing renewal

These two documents comprise the performance review, and will be presented to and discussed in detail with the Commissioner. The Commissioner then offers recommendations regarding renewal to the Board of Education.

## Performance Framework

The Performance Framework lays out three core questions, on which each charter school's performance review is based:



### **1. Is the school's educational program an academic success?**

This component of the framework is designed to report student outcome measures using the most generalizable data available.

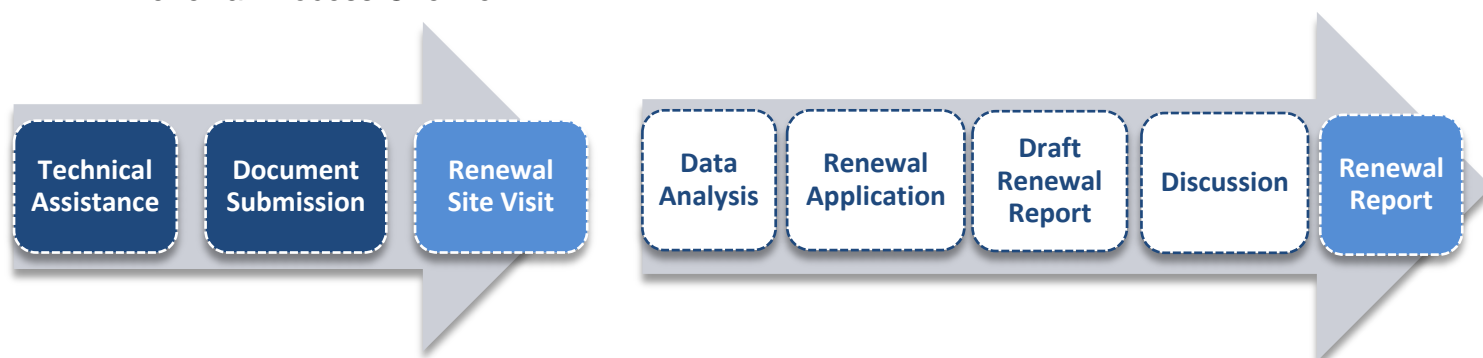
### **2. Is the school providing the appropriate conditions for success?**

This component is designed to gauge the quality of charter program implementation, including instructional leadership and practices, curricula development, student and staff supports, family and community engagement, school climate, and mission alignment at each school. Evidence regarding this question is gathered through the school's annual reports, a multi-day site visit process and evidence review.

### **3. Is the school a viable organization?**

This component is designed to assess a charter school's record of sustaining its operations and maintaining program quality. The school's financial health, regulatory compliance, and the quality of implementation of programmatic goals are reviewed to assess organizational viability.

## Renewal Process Overview



Event	Purpose	Date and Time
Technical Assistance	An on-site meeting with RIDE and RINIMC personnel to discuss the renewal process in detail. RIDE will provide all technical assistance required to successfully prepare for renewal. School administration should attend; board members may also wish to attend.	<i>Six to eight weeks before renewal site visit</i>
Document Submission	RIDE requests an electronic submission of school-level documents in advance of the renewal site visit to prepare for the visit.	<i>Four weeks before renewal site visit</i>
Renewal Site Visit	A multi-day visit by a renewal site visit team to review materials, conduct classroom observations, and conduct stakeholder interviews.	<i>Varies; between November and March during penultimate year of charter term</i>
Data Analysis	RIDE aggregates and analyzes data that serves as evidence of performance against the standards of the performance framework	<i>Ongoing</i>
Renewal Application	The renewal application serves two key functions: 1) the formal submission serves as confirmation that the charter school board is seeking a renewal of its charter; and 2) it provides an opportunity for schools to reflect on performance to date, and to articulate strategies for sustaining success and improving over the next charter term.	<i>Due one to two weeks after renewal site visit</i>
Draft Renewal Report	RIDE submits a draft renewal report to the charter school for review	<i>Four to six weeks after renewal site visit</i>
Discussion	RIDE and charter school meet to discuss the renewal report	<i>Immediately after draft renewal report</i>
Final Renewal Report	RIDE finalizes and presents renewal report to charter school and Board of Education	<i>One to two weeks after renewal report discussion</i>